NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) In pursuance of the Inter-Governmental agreement dated 24th November, 1987 between the Governments of India and USSR, the Soviet Organisation M|s. Techmashimport had submitted a revised offer on turn-key basis for Karnal Refinery, which is under Government's consideration.

Crisis in Beedi industry due to shortage of tendu leaves

*197. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether beedi manufacturers are experiencing shortage of tendu leaves as a result of which beedi manufacturing industry is facing a crisis; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to save the beedi industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir, there is no shortage of tendu leaves in the country to meet the requirement of beedi manufacturing industry.

(b) Does not arise.

Shifting of godowns of crude oil and petroleum products from congested areas

*198. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a working group has been set up by his Ministry to go into the question of shifting the godowns of crude oil and petroleum products from the precincts of refineries and from congested areas so as to reduce the fire hazards; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The Government have recently set up a High Powered Committee to review the recent major fire accidents in refineries. The Committee would *inter alia* review the locations layouts and existing facilities in the refineries and would also make recommendations regarding shifting of bulk storage of crude oil and petroleum products to safer locations.

Power generation by Neyveli Lignite Corporation

*199. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present power generating capacity of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation;

(b) what are the details of future expansion of plans of the Corporation;

(c) whether any foreign collaboration is being sought for in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) by when all the projects under the Neyveli Lignite Corporation are expected to be completed, project-wise; and

(e) how much funds are required for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The present power generating capacity of Neyveli Lignite Corporation is 1230 MW made up of 600 MW of the first thermal power station and 630 MW of the second thermal power station stage I.

(b) to (e) Project for the expansion of thermal power station II raising its capacity from 630 MW to 1470 MW by addition of 4 units of 210 MW each is under construction. The sanctioned capital cost of the project is Rs. 1016.80 crores. The first unit of this project is expected to be commissioned in November, 1990 and the subsequent units at intervals of nine months thereafter. The foreign exchange requirement of the project